

WE CLAIM:

1. A method of managing the loading by patrons of multiple attractions in an entertainment environment wherein different patrons are permitted access to the attraction on at least two bases, firstly, a first-in first-out basis, and secondly, on a priority basis established by a prior allocation of a space to the attraction comprising:

a. permitting application through an entry of an allocation of a space on the first attraction including the steps of:

i. receiving an input from a remote location, the input being effected through a control device associated with a television unit, selectively a digital television having a control device for operating the television, the input being communicated to a central computer for regulating the load of the first attraction;

ii. permitting receiving of a response remotely about the available return times for the first attraction; and

iii. permitting the patron to effect a choice of a selected available return time; and

b. employing an operation at the attraction to provide access to the first attraction.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the television is locatable remotely from the environment, the remote location being selectively in at least one of a room of a patron, the room being associated with the entertainment environment, or in a common area of a facility housing the room.

3. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the television is locatable remotely from the environment, the remote location being selectively in at least both of a room of a patron, the room being associated with the entertainment environment, or in a common area of a facility housing the room.

4. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein a hierarchy of available times is determined on the basis of those remotely located from the environment when making a priority request and those located at the environment making the priority request.

5. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein a hierarchy of available times is determined on the basis of those remotely located from the environment when making a priority request, those resident in a facility associated with the environment when making the request, and those located at the environment making the priority request.

6. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein multiple priority requests are permitting to selected patrons, the multiple requests being for different attractions in the environment.

7. A method as claimed in claim 2 wherein multiple priority requests are permitting to selected patrons, the multiple requests being for different attractions in the environment.

8. A method as claimed in claim 3 wherein multiple priority requests are permitting to selected patrons, the multiple requests being for different attractions in the environment.

9. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein multiple priority requests are permitting to selected patrons, the multiple requests being for different patrons in a selected group of at least one of the levels of the hierarchy of patrons.

10. A method as claimed in claim 2 wherein multiple priority requests are permitting to selected patrons, the multiple requests being for different patrons in a selected group of at least one of the levels of the hierarchy of patrons.

11. A method as claimed in claim 3 wherein multiple priority requests are permitting to selected patrons, the multiple requests being for different patrons in a selected group of at least one of the levels of the hierarchy of patrons.

12. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the priority is redeemed through a selected essentially automatic procedure, such procedure being the reading of one of a RF identification, reading of a magnetic code or barcode allocated to the patron.

13. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the priority is redeemed at a time of entry into the environment or the attraction in the environment.

14. A method as claimed in claim 1 including a computing process to determine the mix ratio of numbers of accesses granted to the priority access and non-priority access, and feeding back redemptions of the priority accesses such that near real time updates of availability for further granting of accesses may be computed.

15. A method as claimed in claim 1 including the ability to permit at least one of the exchange or return of previously assigned priority access, and whereby such exchange permits for updating the computation of a load of the attraction.

16. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein a nonuse of a priority assignment is factored into a computation of loading.

17. A system of managing the loading by patrons of multiple attractions in an entertainment environment wherein different patrons are permitted access to the attraction on at least two bases, firstly, a first-in first-out basis, and secondly, on a priority basis established by a prior allocation of a space to the attraction comprising:

a. means for entry of an allocation of a space on the first attraction including :

i. receiving an input from a remote location, the input being effected through a control device associated with a television unit, selectively a digital television having a control device for operating the television, the input being communicated to a central computer for regulating the load of the first attraction;

ii. permitting receiving of a response remotely about the available return times for the first attraction; and

iii. permitting the patron to effect a choice of a selected available return time; and

b. employing an operation at the attraction to provide access to the first attraction.

18. A system as claimed in claim 17 including a computer for calculating a hierarchy of available times on the basis of those requested remotely from the environment when making a priority request and those located at the environment when making the priority request.